

NOHREN, Jr.
Serial No. 09/132,143



a mounting element which mounts said siphon shield around said filter element so that there is a siphon space between said filter element and said siphon shield; [and]

said siphon space cooperating with said siphon shield to significantly reduce the amount of air radially flowing through said filter element with water when parts of said filter element are uncovered by water; and

wherein said filter element first end is operatively connected to a cap for closing the open end of a bottle, said cap having a manual valve associated therewith; and wherein said mounting element mounts said siphon shield adjacent said second end of said filter element so that water can substantially only flow into said siphon space from adjacent said first end of said filter element, and wherein said siphon space is readily accessible to water adjacent said cap.

3. (Amended) A filter assembly as recited in claim [2] 1 wherein said mounting element comprises a mounting ring, and wherein said siphon space is substantially annular, and wherein said substantially annular siphon space extends at least about 80% of the length of said filter element from said first end to said second end thereof.

6. (Amended) A filter assembly [as recited in claim 1] in combination with a bottle having an open end opposite a bottom; said filter assembly comprising:

a primarily radial flow filter element comprising a substantially prismatic or cylindrical body of filtering material having a first end through which filtered water flows, and a second end opposite said first end;

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a substantially tubular siphon shield having cross-sectional interior dimensions greater than the exterior cross sectional dimensions of said filter element, said shield consisting of a single thickness wall comprising the exterior of said filter assembly;

a mounting element which mounts said siphon shield around said filter element so that there is a siphon space between said filter element and said siphon shield;

said siphon space cooperating with said siphon shield to significantly reduce the amount of air radially flowing through said filter element with water when parts of said filter element are uncovered by water; and

wherein said filter element first end is operatively connected to a drinking straw, said straw extending through said open end of said bottle; and wherein said mounting element mounts said siphon shield adjacent said first end of said filter element so that water can substantially only flow into said siphon space from adjacent said second end of said filter element, and wherein said siphon space is readily accessible to water adjacent [a] said bottom of [a] said bottle in which said entire filter element, and a portion of said drinking straw, are disposed.

14. (Amended) A filter assembly and bottle combination comprising:

a squeezable bottle having an open end and an interior spaced from said open end;

a primarily radial flow filter element comprising a substantially prismatic or cylindrical body of filtering material having a first end through which filtered water flows, and a second end opposite said first end;

a substantially tubular substantially solid wall shield having cross-sectional interior dimensions greater than the exterior cross sectional dimensions of said filter element;

a mounting element which mounts said shield around said filter element so that there is a space between said filter element and said siphon shield;

24 a cap for closing [the] said open end of a bottle, said cap having a manual valve associated therewith;

said filter element first end operatively connected to said cap;

said cap closing said open end and said filter element and siphon shield
disposed completely within said bottle interior; and

wherein said mounting element mounts said shield adjacent said second end of said filter element so that water can substantially only flow into said space from adjacent said first end of said filter element, and wherein said space is readily accessible to water adjacent said cap.

Cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

Claim 5, line 1, ~~change~~ "comprises" to --consists essentially of--.

Claim 22, line 1, ~~change~~ "comprises" to --consists essentially of--.

~~Cancel~~ claim 4 without prejudice.

Add the following new claims:

25 ~~24.~~ A filter assembly as recited in claim 1 in combination with a squeezable bottle having an open end and an interior spaced from said open end, said cap closing

said open end, and said filter element and siphon shield disposed completely within

said bottle interior.

25. A filter assembly as recited in claim 6 wherein said filter element comprises a hollow substantially continuous self-supporting, self-venting body of activated carbon and binder having a porosity of about 10-120 microns.--

REMARKS

By the present amendment claims 1, 6, and 14 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention, and claims 24 and 25 have been added. A few changes have also been made to claims 3 (claim 4 was incorporated therein), 5, and 22.

The invention relates to a significant advance in exit filtration of a liquid from bottles. In primarily radial flow filters, to which the invention relates, air can be ingested through the filter (aspirate) when the bottle is approaching empty, which results in an unpleasant gas filled issuance of water for as much as the last two to five ounces of the water being dispensed from the bottom (depending upon the bottle size). It is highly desirable to be able to eliminate or minimize the air being ingested through the filter so that substantially gas-free dispensing of water from the bottle may take place until right near the empty point.

According to the present invention a filter assembly is provided which significantly reduces, and in fact can substantially eliminate, the amount of air ingested through the filter for both cap mounted filters and straw mounted filters in conventional bottles with filters. The filter assembly according to the invention is able to evacuate